What is claimed is:

1. A method of controlling communications in a wireless network comprising:

receiving, in a wireless network controller, an indicator in a message sent by a mobile station to establish a data transfer session in the wireless network; and

selecting one of plural types of protocol stacks to use for communications over an air link between the wireless network controller and mobile station based on the indicator.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting one of plural types of protocol stacks comprises selecting from protocol stacks comprising a GERAN protocol stack.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein selecting one of plural types of protocol stacks comprises selecting from plural stacks comprising the GERAN protocol stack and an EGPRS protocol stack.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting one of plural types of protocol stacks comprises selecting from protocol stacks comprising an EGPRS protocol stack.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the indicator comprises receiving a Temporary Logical Link Identity structure having one of plural values.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein selecting one of plural types of protocol stacks comprises selecting a first protocol stack if the Temporary Logical Link Identity structure has a first value.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein selecting one of plural types of protocol stacks further comprises selecting a second protocol stack if the Temporary Logical Link Identity structure has a second value.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein selecting one of plural types of protocol stacks comprises selecting a first protocol stack if the indicator has a first value and selecting a second protocol stack if the indicator has a second value.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the indicator comprises receiving a parameter used for contention resolution.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising performing contention resolution using the parameter.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein receiving the parameter comprises receiving a Temporary Logical Link Identity.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein receiving the parameter comprises receiving a GERAN Contention Resolution Identity.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein receiving the indicator comprises receiving one of plural training sequences.

14. A system comprising:

an interface to an air link to communicate with mobile stations; and

a controller adapted to perform contention resolution with a first type mobile station using a first type of indicator, the controller adapted to communicate signaling according to a first wireless protocol with the first type of mobile station, and

the controller adapted to perform contention resolution with a second type of mobile station using a second type of indicator, the controller adapted to communicate signaling according to a second wireless protocol with the second type of mobile station.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein the first wireless protocol comprises a GERAN wireless protocol.

16. The system of claim 15, wherein the second wireless protocol comprises an EGPRS wireless protocol.

17. The system of claim 14, wherein the first wireless protocol comprises an EGPRS wireless protocol.

18. The system of claim 14, wherein the first type of indicator comprises a Temporary Logical Link Identity (TLLI) structure having a first value, and the second type of indicator comprises a TLLI structure having a second value.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein the first value indicates one of a local TLLI, a foreign TLLI, and a random TLLI, and the second value indicates one of a local GRCI and a random GRCI.

20. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a wireless access system to:

receive an indicator in a message sent by a mobile station to establish a data transfer session; and

select one of plural protocol stacks to use for communications over an air link between the wireless access system and the mobile station.

21. The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the wireless access system to select one of plural protocol stacks by selecting a first protocol stack in response to the indicator having a first value and selecting a second protocol stack in response to the indicator having a second value.

22. The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the wireless access system to select one of a GERAN protocol stack and an EGPRS protocol stack.

23. The article of claim 20, wherein the instructions when executed cause the wireless access system to receive the indicator by receiving a Temporary Logical Link Identity (TLLI) structure.

24. An article comprising at least one storage medium containing instructions that when executed cause a wireless access system to:

perform contention resolution with a first type mobile station using a first type of indicator;

communicate signaling according to a first wireless protocol with the first type of mobile station;

perform contention resolution with a second type of mobile station using a second type of indicator; and

communicate signaling according to a second wireless protocol with the second type of mobile station.

25. The article of claim 24, wherein the instructions when executed cause the wireless access system to select one of plural types of protocol stacks based on which of the first and second types of indicators is received.